Missouri Department of Mental Health
Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

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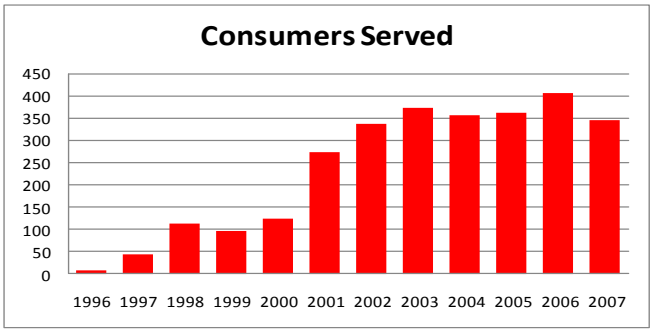
Compulsive Gambling Treatment Services Missouri

Compulsive Gambling

Compulsive Gambling or Pathological Gambling Disorder is a progressive addiction with increasing preoccupation with betting more money, more frequently and chasing losses. In spite of mounting, serious, financial losses and other emotional consequences compulsive gamblers continue the gambling behavior .[1]

The Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA) administers treatment programs for compulsive gamblers and their families. Treatment services include free individual and group counseling, family therapy, individual and group co-dependency counseling, and referrals for other supportive services. The division currently contracts with 20 agencies to provide services. The division also serves as the certifying body for compulsive gambling counselors.

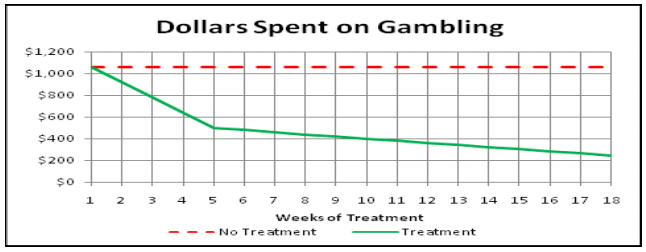
Missouri Consumers Served

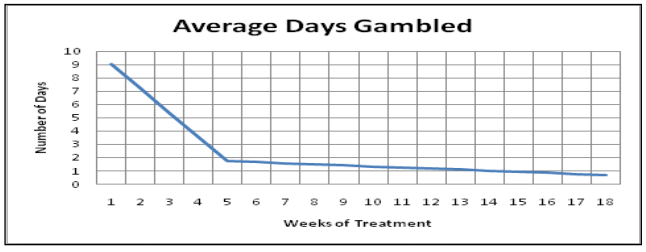


It's estimated that roughly 1% of the US adults have a serious gambling problem and meet the criteria for "pathological gamblers" whereas another 3-4% have it as a sub-threshold condition. Based on national prevalence estimates, thousands of Missourians have significant gambling problem. After a quick rise in the early years the number of consumers receiving Compulsive Gambling treatment services has stabilized.

Does Treatment Work?

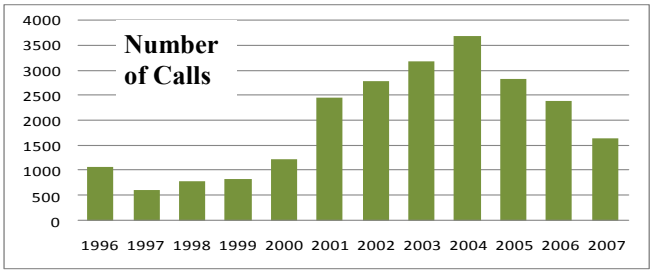
Yes. The data in graphs 'Dollars Spent on Gambling' and 'Average Days Gambled' show that after four weeks of treatment for compulsive gambling there is a significant reduction in both number of days gambled in the past 30 days and the average dollars gambled per week, indicating positive outcomes of treatment.





Other Services

In addition to providing treatment services and ensuring that treatment providers meet professional and continuing education requirements, ADA collaborates with other organizations to educate Missouri residents on the dangers of compulsive gambling and when and where to seek help. It is a key member of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling (MACPG) that organizes speakers and runs a Life Crisis Compulsive Gambling hotline 1-888-BETS-OFF. As shown below, the number of calls made to the hotline have been decreasing over the last few years.



Source:

1. Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling. Available at www.888betsoff.org